GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:79
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
AUGMENTATION OF WATER RESOURCES
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any comprehensive plan for augmentation of water resources in the country;

(b) if so, whether view of the World Commission on Dams have also been taken into consideration while preparing the said plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) The National Water Policy inter-alia envisages augmenting theavailability of water by adopting measures for maximizing retention and minimizing losses, recharging ground water, adopting water harvesting practices, making water available to water short areas by inter-basin transfer based on a national perspective and recycling and re-use of water. The rain water has been harnessed by construction of large, medium and minor storage reservoirs through planned development since independence. Upto 1995, a live storage capacity of 177 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) has been created by constructionof large dams in the country. Besides, projects to add an additional storage capacity of about 75 BCM are under construction and 132 BCM are under planning.

As a long term measure, a National Perspective Planhas been formulated for water resources development which envisages inter-linking between various peninsular and Himalaya rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies.

(b) Government of India has not accepted the recommendations and guidelines of the World Commission on Dams as these are wholly incompatible with our development imperatives.

(c) Does not Arise.